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Ex-C.I.A. Agent Believed a Fugitive

By ROBERT PEAR

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 — Prosecutors here and in New York said today that they feared that Francis Edward Terpil, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer, might have fled the country to avoid facing trial on charges of training terrorists, selling guns and exporting high-powered explosives.

Federal District Judge John H. Pratt, in Washington, and Justice Thomas B. Galligan of the New York State Supreme Court issued fugitive warrants for the arrest of Mr. Terpil after he failed to appear last Thursday for trial before Justice Galligan in Manhattan.

George Gregaru Korkala, a co-defend-

Michael Robinson, said that the Federal Government had had Mr. Terpil under surveillance and knew that he had shaved his mustache and had his hair cut several days before he disappeared. Justice Department officials said that they had tried to keep track of Mr. Terpil, but did not have him under round-the-clock surveillance.

Mr. Robinson said he felt "sure" that Mr. Terpil had left the United States and added, "If I were a betting man, I would bet on Libya" as his destination.

Federal authorities are searching for Mr. Terpil in the United States and abroad, especially in European and Middle Eastern countries, including Libya, Iraq and Syria.

In an indictment returned here last April, a Federal grand jury charged that Mr. Terpil had acted in this country as an unregistered agent for the Libyan Government in 1976. The indictment also al-

leged that Mr. Terpil had conspired with Mr. Wilson from 1976 to 1978 to ship explosives to Libya and to kill a Libyan opponent of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, the Libyan leader.

Mr. Terpil's trial here was scheduled to begin Nov. 5. He pleaded not guilty to the Federal charges here and the state charges in New York, insisting that his international arms dealings had all been properly licensed.

The Manhattan District Attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau, had argued that Mr. Terpil should be incarcerated until his trial, while the United States Attorney here in Washington had sought to increase his bond, warning that he might flee.

He was required to report daily to the District of Columbia Bail Agency, where he last checked in at 12:03 A.M. Sept. 3, leaving nearly 48 hours before he had to call in again.

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